

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): In a coil spring of closed-end type, said coil spring is characterized in that a coupler is fixedly mounted between: an outer peripheral surface of a terminal convolution of a coil element rod of the coil spring of closed-end type, said terminal convolution being partially flattened in cross section through a flattening process; and[[,]] an outer peripheral surface of a subsequent convolution subsequent to said terminal convolution of the coil spring of closed-end type, so that said coupler is brought into close contact with said outer peripheral surface of each of said terminal convolution and said subsequent convolution of the coil spring of closed-end type, whereby an amount of initial deflection of the coil spring of closed-end type is decreased.

2. (currently amended): The coil spring of closed-end type decreased in the amount of initial deflection as set forth in claim 1, wherein said coupler is made of an elastic material[[.]], said elastic material being larger in stiffness than said coil spring.